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Musket

LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL Vol. XXXIX, Issue 6 May 2007

Courtesy of Myspace

Trolleys have open seating suited for socializing and closed windows to keep students dry.

Administration & Students Cooperate on Prom Plans

By Helen Goodman

While students are shopping for prom attire and carefully choosing dates, the administration along with the student class councils and the PTSA are revising and finalizing plans for this year's trolley transportation. The trolleys are indeed mandatory, although the pre-prom receptions are not. Students attending the senior prom can choose to gather and take pictures with the rest of their class and then board the trolleys, or they can take pictures at their own homes and meet the trolleys at the specified location.

As for exactly where that location will be, the PTSA is currently looking at both the Town Green and the gazebo area across the street from Hayden. Senior Class Council has met with PTSA President, Deborah Hoard, to talk about these options. Matters such as parking and inclement weather have been taken into consideration.

Ultimately, the class council will choose the location for the reception given that they are both viable. "I am hoping that once we get all the details from the PTSA/School Board, then we'll be able to decide depending on our options," said Senior Class President Jinhee Oh. Trolleys will leave from the high school for the junior prom.

But what is a trolley? Much of the confusion about transportation to and from prom can be attributed to the fact that many students are unfamiliar with trolleys and doubtful of their capabilities.

In fact, trolleys can ride on the highway and they are not open on the sides. In case of rain, all students traveling to prom will stay warm and dry. A few weeks ago, when faced with the question of whether the student body would prefer coach buses over trolleys, Jinhee Oh and the rest of the Senior class council considered the more open seating in trolleys.

The plans for Boston students are still being worked out... they do not actually have to come to Lexington...

Trolleys also seat fewer people than coach buses (approximately 30), which can allow for a more intimate setting. "I think people wanted a closer set-up in terms of more familiar people on their source of transportation," said Oh.

Plans for trolley sign-ups have also not been finalized, but Class Council is discussing the possibility of letting students sign themselves up in groups when they buy their prom tickets. Rumors about alphabetical seating are "absolutely false," according to Dean Laura Lasa.

The plans for Boston students are still being worked out, but it has been confirmed that they do not actually have to come to Lexington in order to get on a trolley and go back to Boston.

The administration is coordinating with the METCO office to formulate a plan that would allow Boston students to participate in the pre-prom reception if they want to, or to stay in Boston and go directly to the prom.

"Mr. Eggleston and Ms. Prescott-Walden have met with the Boston students once and will be meeting again so we can have student and parent input from the Boston families before we make any final decisions," said Lasa. Whatever is decided upon, Boston students will travel to prom in a way that promotes safety and togetherness, similarly to the trolleys.

At this point in time, the administration and the student officers can only answer so many questions about the prom trolley situation. Many plans have not been fully worked out and many students and their families remain confused about where these decisions have come from. More information will be made available as soon as possible.

It is advised that students direct their remaining questions, to deans and other administrators in order to avoid rumors and inaccurate information.

Commons Shut Down

By Eric Eid-Reiner

At the end of March, the LHS Administration implemented a policy of closing the campus at 2:45 p.m. to those students not engaged in supervised activities such as taking driver's education, meeting with a teacher, or working in the library, or participating in a club or sports team.

Students awaiting rides are asked to wait by the Worthen Road entrance to the school, or may wait in the Commons if Mrs. Wood or an administrator is present.

METCO students are still permitted to wait in the Commons for their bus after school, provided that they were previously engaged in a supervised activity. Outdoor areas, including the quad, are not covered by this policy.

Principal Michael Jones explained that this policy was implemented because students were bringing their conflicts to the Commons after school. He stated, "I realize it's an inconvenience to some students, but it's unfortunately necessary due to the violence that was happening there." At the time of this writing, there had been four fights in the past six weeks.

LHS Campus Monitor Susan Wood noted that students had recently been misbehaving and otherwise not acting responsibly. Both Wood and Jones feel that the policy has helped in dissipating tension and reducing the number of fights.

Wood explained that she is physically unable to monitor the entire LHS campus, and that after-school vandalism and thefts are as problematic as student fights.

"The school's job is to educate you, which is over at 2:25 p.m," stated Wood. "Our job is not to babysit [students]. Our job is not to provide [students] with a place to hang out; that is the community's responsibility."

She added that it is unfortunate that the school does not presently have adequate funds to monitor

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Senate to Jones: "Discuss The Bus!"

By Alex MacMulkin

On April 25, the LHS Student-Faculty Senate unanimously passed a Resolution on Mandatory Prom Busses. The Resolution formally calls upon Principle Michael Jones to "explain to the LHS Student-Faculty Senate in writing why students and faculty were not given meaningful opportunity to participate in this decision [about mandatory buses]."

Furthermore, the resolution asks that Jones reopen discussions next year so that the entire school community may participate in the a decision-making process.

In the rationale attached to the resolution, it is noted that Dr. Jones received or solicited support from a variety of community organizations, such as the Youth Services Committee and the Health Protection Advisory Committee, but opted not to solicit support from students and faculty within the high school itself.

According to Senate records, Jones first made the proposal for mandatory busing during a February 26 meeting of the School Council, which consists of parent, community, faculty and a student representative.

However, until that point, class council advisors and members were led to believe that prom

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Bogart Displays Abstract Pieces at DeCordova

By Lilia Kilburn

Steve Bogart, legendary LHS drama teacher, has been on sabbatical since January, but from the looks of his recent art exhibit, he has been more than busy. Bogart is one of fifteen artists featured in the DeCordova Museum's newest abstract show, titled *Big Bang! Abstract Art for the 21st Century.*

The title references both the cosmological event that helped create our universe and the current growth of abstract art that relates to modern intellectual concerns - in other words, "art for the Information Age."

At first glance, the show appears to encompass everything, making the grandiose claim that "the symbolic systems of the rational and mystical worlds radiantly co-exist here."

The viewer must sift through sea anemones of color, tessellations of creation, and artist-described "solar systems of gumballs" to arrive at this inner significance, but the profundity of the art does not make it less visually appealing. In fact, the opposite is true.

Viewers strolling the galleries in DeCordova's new wing attempted to explain the images with a variety of metaphors: there were "70s album covers;" "paramecium attacking a small city;" "rejected Atari video game concepts;" "fish tanks on LSD;" "output from DNA experiments." Ultimately, an exhibit that addresses every branch of science and every shade of roygbiv (or roygbv, now that indigo has lost its place on the color wheel,) cannot be boxed in, for it is not merely reproducing or synthesizing past art forms. *Big Bang!* is something completely different.

Bogart's pieces, including "Towards a Singularity," "Caesura," and "2:49 pm," are equally difficult to pinpoint. They embody the conflict between distance and detail; background and foreground. Even the paint presents a dichotomy: by mixing oil and water-based paints, the hues separate, creating intricate swirls that fade into their context.

In what could have been construed as a subtle jab at Jackson Pollock, or a recognition of how far modern art has come, a guide remarked that Bogart "doesn't just pour some paint."

Self-interpretation occurs, but it is clear that Bogart has a very specific idea of what he wants the viewer to take away.

Bogart's work is physically dwarfed by the wall-to-wall spreads of several other artists, but the intricate meaning that can be found in his vivid tendrils of color is unmatched.

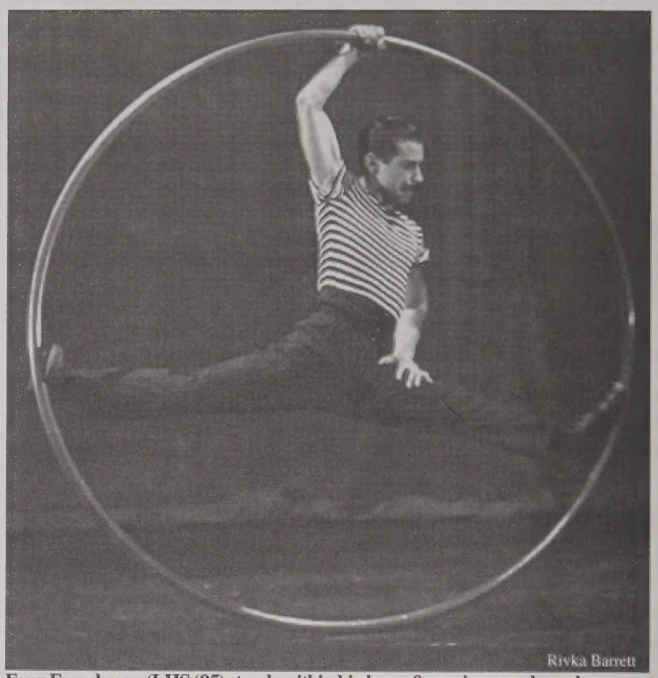
One notices how perfect each iteration is, and the sensory overload leaves one unsure, figuratively and emotionally, as to where to stand to fully appreciate the pieces.

Like a child cloud gazing, the viewer sees the shapes that emerge as finite yet fleeting. One agrees with artist Sarah Slatvick that "abstraction is a way to understand what we cannot understand."

Though there is something surreal about each of Bogart's pieces, they may lead us closer to some truth. Remarked the tour guide on Bogart's work: "I think everybody said they wanted to take one of these home."

"Big Bang! Abstract Art for the 21st Century" ran until April 22nd at the DeCordova Museum in Lincoln, MA.

Steven Bogart, Towards a Singularity, 2006, oil and enamel on canvas, 20 x 20, Lent by the Artist, featured in Big Bang! Abstract Painting for the 21st Century on view at the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park through April 22, 2007



Faux Frenchman (LHS '95) stands within big hoop & receives much applause.

French Circus Dazzles

By Rivka Barrett

On a Saturday night in March, I went to the circus. But this was no noisy Ringling Bros. extravaganza, overflowing with cages, wagons, equipment, and a cast of hundreds! Instead, Cirque Eloize is of a different caliber altogether. Imagine a combination of music, dance, song, and drama against backdrops that evoke mystery, accompanied by music that conjures up romance. Imagine all this, not sprawled over three rings, but in the intimate confines of Boston's glorious Cutler Majestic Theater.

Written and directed by Daniele Finzi Pasca, *Cirque Eloize: RAIN* is every jaded teenager's dream, creating a magical atmosphere that brings back memories of carefree childhood.

"The artists are out of the past … characters from collections of old photos," says Director Pasca. He dresses his characters in 1920s-clothing -- bowler hats and flapper dresses. The intended effect is to mirror his own childhood experiences of playing in the rain, experiences that stirred delight and also wonder: 'Unexpected things can come from the sky: messages, signs, promises."

At the outset, a bearded young Frenchman greets the audience with an enthusiastic description of the show's meaning, while his companion, a skittish young woman, anxiously grooms him and corrects his pronunciation. The rest of the cast walks by in the background, playing saxophones and accordions.

A second woman appears in the foreground, suspended from a trapeze. White cloud-shaped balloons float onstage. The lighting quickly darkens. Colored bits of paper fall to the stage in a gorgeous cascade. The performers catch them, elated at the "butterflies."

The next scene presents a sharp contrast. Performers somersault and back-flip, wowing the audience with virtuoso displays of athleticism. The Frenchman returns to the stage juggling five pins, using his fingers and toes to pluck them from mid-air. A group of women contort their bodies into extraordinary shapes.

Then the mood alters again. Stage lights illuminate a single woman. "I don't understand this new circus," she confides to the audience. "It's so cerebral." Another woman joins her. The two talk about the "artistic" meaning behind the show -- suddenly black shoes rain down all around them, triggering convulsions of laughter from the audience.

Then LHS own Jonas Woolverton (class of '95) appears, spinning inside a luminous six-foot hoop. This is the show's athletic highlight – an amazing demonstration of balance, endurance and speed. With his feet and arms splayed inside the wheel, Woolverton cartwheels around the stage. The delicate quality of the hoop makes his feat seem almost impossible – he spins in full circles, propelled only by his own strength and energy.

The finale is touching and joyful. Rain pours down on the stage in torrents, while the performers do tricks and splash about, laughing and dancing.

I interviewed Woolverton about the show and his experiences as a circus performer. In high school, he performed in "all of Steve Bogart's theater productions, plus an a cappella group, an improv comedy group, and a chorus. I was also the singer in a funk-rock band." Woolverton considers Bogart a "guru, creating top-notch theater." He recalls of high school, "When people would come up to me after performances and tell me how moved they were, I knew that there was something to it."

Woolverton attended Vassar College, where he formed a circus-rock band called *Circophonique!* with a friend. What made his band unique was that it was "an accordion-based rock band in complete op-

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FEATURES

Concert for Darfur

By Toni Maeck

According to Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Nicholas Kristof, "Darfur has become a household name." Kristof is referring to the frenzy of the "Save Darfur" campaigns which have cropped up all over the country, many on college and high school campuses.

Many of us here at LHS are probably familiar with the genocide in Sudan. We've seen the kelly green "Save Darfur" t-shirts, we've worn the wristbands, heard the mantra "never again," and yet we have also watched as the genocide wages on with only minimal international intervention.

As students, where does that leave us? What do we do when it feels like the problems that are most important and most pressing are also the problems that we feel we have the least power to impact? We can't become peacekeepers and helicopter over to Sudan. Yet surely there is an acceptable middle ground between direct action and apathy.

On March 22, LHS' Amnesty International Club hosted "Jamnesty," a band night and a cappella concert to raise both awareness and money to help combat the genocide in Darfur.

Since early 2003, the Sudanese government has backed a militia known as the "Janjaweed" and used them to slaughter, rape, and displace innocent Darfuri civilians.

Over 400,000 people have been killed since the genocide began, and two million people have been uprooted from their homes and forced to reside in displaced persons camps in Sudan or in neighboring Chad.

Jamnesty focused on a variety of topics about the genocide, including a history of Sudan, the divestment campaign, women's rights, and the children of Darfur.

All proceeds from Jamnesty went to the International Relief Committee (www.irc.org), which funds many different forms of humanitarian aid in Darfur. Thanks to the generous donations of all who attended, the event raised over 2,000 dollars to help those suffering in Darfur.

In addition to raising money and awareness, Jamnesty was the first time a cappella groups and bands performed together in one event. A cappella groups Zest, Guacamole, Pitchpipes, and Euphoria all lent their voices to the cause and bands Media, Tracy Strangelove, Eli Rothfield and Raffi Sweet, Dolphin Safe, Mark Saldana and Danny Spencer, and Aramati all performed amazingly well and spoke on various topics about the genocide.

Where do we proceed from here? One of the most influential things we can all do is write letters to our senators and congresspeople, asking them to sponsor aid and intervention for Darfur.

You are the constituents of your elected officials, whether or not you can vote. Regardless of your politics, consider the following statement from a released political prisoner in the Dominican Republic:

"When the first two hundred letters came, the guards gave me back my clothes. Then the next two hundred letters came, and the prison director came to see me. When the next pile of letters arrived, the director got in touch with his superior. The letters kept coming and coming: three thousand of them. The President was informed. The letters still kept arriving, and the President called the prison and told them to let me go." Letters work. For suggested letter formats, visit www.savedarfur.org or www.aiusa.org.

Resolution on Prom Busses

Continued from page 1

buses would remain optional. The rationale further states that "neither student nor faculty representatives were able to report this development to their constituents and seek their input because a vote was taken at the same [school council] meeting."

The resolution remained neutral on the actual matter of mandatory prom busing. "The resolution managed to avoid the divisiveness of the prom bus issue because it was intended to address the process through which the decision was reached, rather than its advantages and disadvantages," said Senate Policy Committee member Tom Burnett.

"The LHS administration should have involved the school community more in this decision..."

Eric Eid-Reiner

The Resolution does cite popular criticism of the busing policy, including the concern that busing will effectively increase the amount of student driving that will take place on prom night.

The Resolution was initially submitted to the full Senate by the Policy Committee on April 11, but was amended twice before passing.

These amendments included one that recognizes that substance abuse at school events is an "ongoing problem involving serious risks to students."

"Regardless of [the Senate's] view on mandatory prom buses… we all agree that the LHS administration should have involved the school community more in this decision," said Policy Committee Chairman Eric Eid-Reiner. "The focus of the resolution is the process by which the decision was reached."

According to Burnett, "Teachers and students were equally displeased with the lack of communication and debate surrounding the implementation of the policy."

Dr. Jones and other members of the administrative team first presented their mandatory prom bus decision to the Senate on March 14. This was the first that most members of the student body had heard that the proposal was no longer an optional one but rather was now mandatory. When asked by a senator if the idea was a "done deal," Jones answered that it was.

The administrators explained that the amount of alcohol-related containers rounded up at the end of last year's senior prom at the Fairmont Copley Plaza had been an embarassment to Lexington High.

Jones added that the hotel indicated that the Lexington prom was the worst experience thay had had with a school prom. Deans Laura Lasa and Dave Lautman appealed to the senators to help them establish the bus idea as a "new tradition." They urged members of the Senate to help them "sell the idea" to the rest of the student body.

Many senators were astonished that the bussing idea had clearly been in the works for some time as the notes Jones read from supporting community groups indicated.

The passage of the recent resolution was the Senate's after-the-fact attempt to hold the administration accountable for the issue without taking a stand either for or against this year's prom bus plan.

MUSKETEERS' SUDOKU!

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EDITORIALS

Prom Bus Decision is an Insult to Students

By Danny Metzger-Traber

Recently, our school's administration has decided to enforce a mandatory busing policy for this year's senior and junior proms. They claim that this new policy is a community initiative that will be effective in the fight against student drinking on prom night. However, the administration waited until it had made its final decision before opening it up to discussion with students.

Not only is the busing plan is idiotic, but one cannot helped but be stunned by the arrogance of the administration for implementing this policy without including the class councils or the LHS Senate in the decision making process. Students spend three or four years preparing for these events and now, at the eleventh hour, we are told of a major change, which will cast a regrettable shadow over the prom. It is now an insult for the adminsitration to ask to help them with the logistics -- all we get to decide is where the busses will pick us up.

Instead of facing the drinking issue head-on, the school is involved in nothing less than a public relations action...

When the administration came to Senate to initially inform students and even faculty, of their decision, they had the gall to ask senators to help them promote it to their classmates. This was an isnult given that the Senate is suppose to be the voice of the students and faculty, not an extension of the administration.

The problems with the prom bus idea are numerous. The most argued is the fact that it could lead to more drunk driving among students rather than less.

Because students would have to drive to the pick up location before prom, and drive somewhere else after prom, ultimately the number of students on the road in their own cars rather than in limousines will be greater.

The benefit of a limo is that it picks students up at their homes and then delivers them safely home afterwards. Additionally, most limo companies have strict policies against underage drinking.

A limo driver will have a far easier time keeping an eye on the ten students behind him than a bus driver with thirty boisterous and possibly angry adolescents.

The administration also claims that the busses will be a great community building exercise among each of the classes, as they will all be riding together to and from the prom. Have they taken into consideration what this will mean for the Boston students? Will there be another pre-prom gathering event created for them in the city? Doesn't this amount to somesort of "separate but equal" treatment?

Finally, the administration makes the claim that the mandated busses are not a punitive measure. But it clearly is. If so many students had not been caught drinking at last year's senior prom, they would not be making this decision now. So our two clases are being blamed for and punished for the poor behavior of last year's seniors.

If the school is serious about addressing the drunk driving issue, they are approaching it in the entirely wrong manner. This is nothing less than a shift in the ideology of Lexington High School. The administration has to understand it will never stop students from drinking.

Instead they should focus more on safe drinking practices, like using designated drivers. The emphasis should be more on student safety rather than protecting the reputation of the high school at some downtown hotel prom site.

Instead of facing the drinking issue head-on, the school is involved in nothing less than a public relations action, and unfortunately, the townspeople are eating it up.

Ultimately, the issue here is much greater than how students are transported to their respective proms. It is symbolic of how LHS students have been consistently silenced by the administration over the past three years.

Even though an overwhelming number of students and members of the class councils opposed the prom bus idea, the administration went ahead with that decision totally on its own. We should at least be able to have our voices heard.

got ideas?

Send in your letters, photography, comments, cartoons and whatever else you can scrounge up . . .

Leave it in the Musket Mailbox in the library or e-mail it to *themusket@gmail.com*

"Quarantine" an Emersonfest Success

By Christine Kim

At 7:30 P.M. on Wednesday, January 31, in the LHS auditorium, Emersonfest 2007 opened to eerie blue lights and steady percussion. "Quarantine," an original play written and directed by senior Lauren Blackington, shocked and intrigued spectators.

The story spans the years between 2002 and 2028. At the beginning, Josefine Inga, played by senior Becca Savoy, is a quiet, bookish child with a strained home life.

Her parents, Dominik and Maria Inga (played by sophomore Alex Parrish and senior Giulia Davis), quarrel about everything from religion to who picks up Josefine after school. Davis portrays Maria as an uptight woman who fails to understand her daughter, while Parrish brings Dominik to life as a tired husband who loves Josefine dearly.

After a fight with her mother, Josefine decides to leave home and experience the world, neglecting to contact her parents for years to follow.

During this time, Josefine meets Vanessa Schultz (played by sophomore Eliza Strauss), a talkative girl who becomes her best friend and roommate. Josefine, a lesbian, falls in love with Vanessa, who is straight.

Tragedy ensues when Vanessa falls ill with a mysterious malady and dies. The disease sweeps over the city, and Josefine is quarantined (hence the title). During her confinement, she experiences a warm reunion with her father.

Life back home has calmed down since she left. Josefine's mother, Dominik says, "We just ran out of things to fight about." Dominik adds that Maria had wanted to see Josefine, but declined for reasons which are undefined. Josefine's "quarantine" itself is also left open to interpretation; there are hints that she is actually imprisoned and facing execution.

In this year's Emersonfest, the five other participating schools were Westwood High School, Brookline High School, Wellesley High School, Boston Arts Academy, and Wayland High School.

"Quarantine" brought home several accolades: an outstanding ensemble award, an outstanding playwriting award, and outstanding acting awards for performances by Strauss, Parrish, and Savoy. This exceptional production deserves kudos.

Senate Briefs

By Eric Eid-Riner

• In March the Senate took up consideration of a bill that sought to give second semester sophomores open campus if they had at least a 3.0 unweighted GPA and had completed at least 10 hours of community service. After much discussion, the bill, which resembled a similar proposal put forward last year, encountered so much opposition from upperclassmen that the idea was tabled without being put to a formal vote.

• The LHS Administration came to a Senate meeting also in March to discuss the issue of mandatory prom buses. Dr. Jones explained the factors in his decision to implement this mandatory busing policy, and there was discussion among senators and administrators as to how the buses will be paid for, whether the mandatory prom buses are an effective way to handle drinking on prom night, and why this decision was made with little student and faculty input. At this meeting, the Administration confirmed that taking buses to the junior and senior proms would indeed be mandatory. After this meeting the Senate passed a resoltuion in reponse to what it believed was a lack of communication on this issue between the administration and student representative groups (see story on page 1.)

• In other Seanate action a Community Service Records Access Bill was passed at the April 25th meeting. This bill would give teachers access via their computers to information regarding how many community service hours students had accumulated. The purpose of this bill was to allow teachers to extend opportunities to students they might have who need community service hours. The bill was originally passed in October but vetoed at the time by Principal Michael Jones. In his veto message Jones said he wanted to consult with the faculty as a whole before approving the bill. By the April meeting the Senate assumed that the principal had done so and therefore moved to reconsider the bill and passed it by a wide margin.

• Another resolution passed at the April 25th meeting dealt with the issue of public address announcements and homeroom. The goal of this resolution was to cut down on the number of annoucements made over the loud speaker system that interfere with classes. The resoltuion points out how so many mid-class announcements disrupt class time, particulalrly when students are taking tests, making presentations or watching videos. The resolution suggests that many of these announcements be restricted to the bi-weekly homeroom periods, which currently are underutilized from these types of communications. If agreed to by the Principal, the resolution will entrust the Senate Oversight Committee with the responsibility of tracking such announcements.

NEWS/SPORTS

LHS Alumni Joins Circus

Continued from page 2

position to the trend of guitar-based rock bands." He explains, "This was before I was even a circus performer. I was first attracted to the music."

Later, Woolverton saw Cirque Eloize perform in San Francisco. "It was like lighting striking me … it was clear what the purpose of my life was." He saw Daniel Cyr, performing amazing gymnastics while whirring around inside a shining hoop, and was inspired to learn the routine himself. "Being in the Cyr Wheel is exhilarating, a rush, trance-like," Woolverton says.

He trained at the Clown Conservatory at the Circus Center in San Francisco. He describes his time there as "hard work. Lots of bruises and lots of long hours where I came to realize that being funny is actually very serious business." He perfected handstands and Chinese acrobatics, "along with learning the basics of physical comedy."

Currently for Cirque Eloize, Woolverton prepares by training for two hours before every show. He does acrobatics, wheel exercises, and vocal warm-ups. He and his troupe also do a physical/mental exercise; they throw two-foot-tall wooden sticks at each other in a circle "to prepare ourselves as a unified group. If someone is having an off night, you can tell right away in the sticks."

Rather than becoming bored, Woolverton finds inspiration in each new performance: "Maybe it will be because there's a friend in the audience, or I just broke up with my girlfriend, or I just miss my grandmother in Brazil."

Four years in, the circus life is still a source of fulfillment for Woolverton. "It's so emotionally rewarding that I can't see myself stopping," he said.

Boys' Outdoor Track Eyes State Title

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faster if not for that drop." The boys also took a second place in the distance medley relay thanks to the outstanding effort of David Brown, Beaumont, Geoff Rodriquez and Dhyan Adler-Belendez. Overall Lexington finished fourth behind a strong St. John's Prep of Danvers team.

Despite the fact that Lexington's performances in the weight events have been somewhat sub par, a fact that might hurt the Minutemen against Reading, the team has a strong chance of capturing the Division One State championship to be held three weeks from now. With such stars as the multitalented Pascal, who could win two individual events while anchoring one of the top 4x100 relays in the state, Walker, who was selected the state's outstanding runner in the indoor season, and the versatile Lach and Longo, the boys have a good shot at overtaking the highly regarded St. John's squad.

Said first year head coach Kate Waller, "The state title is more difficult to grab during the outdoor season because there are so many more events than indoors. Still, we have the potential to get it done." Waller is being ably assisted this season by another first year coach and teacher Kevin Kelly.

Commons Closed After School

Continued from page 1

students hanging out after school.

Asked about the policy, junior Lisa Kelly said, "It doesn't make sense to send kids away from an environment that is supposed to be safe and monitored." Junior Calvin Iverson expressed frustration that "the entire student body is being blamed for the actions of just a few individuals."

Jones and Wood both stated that this policy will remain in effect "indefinitely." Jones said that the administration has not decided if the policy will be terminated if the conflicts settle down, but did not forsee a reversal of the policy in the near future.

Wood, who classifies the policy as an "administrative time-out," said that while she doesn't see this as a permanent solution, it is a "visible means of control" that she hopes will lead students to realize the effects of their behavior on others.

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Musket

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Courtesy Lacrosse website

Boys Lax Undefeated in League

By Sinclair Kluger

The boys lacrosse team has amassed a record of 7-2 so far this season (5-0 in the Middlesex League) and are looking forward to hitting their stride in the latter part of their schedule. The first nine games were played against some of the more powerful teams in the region including such strong non-league opponents as Concord-Carlisle, BC High, Andover and Xaverian.

Despite this tough schedule Coach Dave Walsh has been very pleased with the performance of his squad. At this stage he attributes the team's success to their outstanding senior leadership. Among the seniorss the coach cited were Nate Blake, Peter Krensky, Chris Stratford, Andrew Alspaugh, and Rob Bond.

Probably the most exciting game of the early season was the recent contest against historic rival Concord-Carlisle. That game went into overtime before the Minutemen prevailed 9-8. Tyler Gelnaw scored the deciding goal in that contest on a neat assist from Blake. This victory was especially sweet as the boys came back from a 3 goal (6-3) half-time deficit. But Walsh rallied his troops and they beat back several Concord attacks before they netted several goals of their own. Alex Marshall knotted the game at 8-8 near the end of regulation much to the chagrin of the Concord team. This set up the dramatic overtime goal and a satisfying victory for a tired but spirited Lexington squad.

In the Xaverian contest the lacrosse team was facing one of the sport's perennial powers. But the MInutemen were not intimidated at all by the Catholic boys' reputation as they fought hard throughout before dropping a close 11-8 game. In this contest juniors Maurie Fitzgerald and Bill Bleakly led the offensive attack while being ably assisted by Bond, Blake, and Cory Woodward.

Against the very tough Andover team the boys jumped ot to a 6-1 lead but then had to hold on for a tight 9-7 victory. In that contest Gelnaw scored three goals while Blake and Marshall added two apiece.

Throughout the season Alex Sullivan has been immense in goal for the Minutemen, stifling breakaway shot after shot. Coach Walsh has also been impressed by the team's camaraderie. Walsh said, "This has been the most coachable group I've had in my eight years as head coach." If the boys can keep up their excellent record against league opponents they will have a great chance of wearing the Middlesex League crown this year.

Girls Lax Finishes Strong

By Sinclair Kluger

The girls lacrosse team has not quite matched the record of their male counterparts so far but they enter the second half of their season with a solid 4-2-2 record. Their mark in the Middlesex League currently stands at 2-1-1 which still leaves them in contention for top honors.

Although the season has been marred by bad weather and wet fields, the girls have not lost their enthusiasm or will to win.

It's just been that the erratic schedule has made it difficult for the Minutemaids to find their rhythm.

Nevertheless, the outstanding play of Captains Laura Chiricosta and Abby Pisegna has been a strong motivation for the rest of the girls. Others who have performed well so far this season have been sophomore Micaela Cyr, Ally Needham, Soo Hee Yoon, SooMee Yoon, Kyleigh Williams, Ailsha Fitzgerald, and Jinhee Oh.

One highlight of the season was a recent high scoring 15-15 tie with a powerful Reading team. In that game it was the dramatic efforts of Lexington goalie Alex Brown that prevented the girls from dropping what would have been a heartbreaking loss.

On the whole scoring was pretty random throughout as one team would score a goal only to have it answered by their opponents almost immediately. In the end Cyr netted an impressive five goals while Chiricosta added three more.

In an earlier contest against Peabody the Minutemaids' high scoring attack was on display once again as they downed their North Shore rivals by a 15-13 score. Scoring was more spread out in this contest as seven different girls knotted goals. Williams, Fitzgerald and Soo Mee Yoon all scored three goals with a number of different teammates assisting on each.

SPORTS

Boys' Track Riding High

By Sam Miake-Lye

The boys outdoor track team heads into its annual showdown meet with Reading riding high atop the Middlesex League with an undefeated record. The tracksters nipped Woburn by just six points in a very close match up earlier in the season and then watched as Woburn took down the always powerful Reading team by just a two point margin in their dual meet. A victory over Reading will all but ensure another league title and an undefeated dual meet season for the Lexington track team.

As is often the case when the boys face off against Reading, the Woburn meet also came down to final relay, the 4x400 meters. A Minuteman team composed of Tom Burnett, Alex Lach, Daishawn Beaumont and Bryan Longo outran the Tanner runners by three meters to ice the victory for our boys. Lach and Beaumont did an exceptional job of holding off their competitors in the passing zone. The victory had some added drama when it was learned later that Burnett had pulled his hamstring in the first 100 meters but held on for the rest of his leg to keep the race competitive.

At the recent Class A State Relay meet Lexington's sprint medley team of Meikle Pascal, Beaumont, Darius Walker and Lach smashed the state record by more than five seconds, in a race where the boys actually dropped the baton in one of the exchanges. In commenting on the record setting race Walker said, "We could've run at least another three seconds

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Courtesy of Website

Jimmy Borden's bat has been clutch this year for the Minutemen.

Girls' Track Success

By Tsung-Tang Shen

The girls outdoor track team has been tremendous so far this spring, running up an undefeated record in dual meet competition and are currently leading the Middlesex League. Some of their outdoor victories were especially gratifying since the girls have defeated a few very good teams that they lost to in the indoor season.

The strength of this year's team appears to be in the middle distances where an abundance of runners has given veteran coach Jeff Glew a great deal of flexibility in drawing up his lineup for each meet. Some of the girls who have shown their stuff in those races are junior Victoria Jones, junior Caroline Gildea, senior Marisa Fiore, and sophomores Ana Kouri and Martha Zimmerman. Both of the squad's relay teams have likewise posted some very fast times this spring. In a recent victory over Wakefield a 4x100 meter team of Emmy Brosnan, Lorna Chaulet, Carolyn Stein and Ginger Willinger ran a personal best time that qualified them for the state meet later in the season. Caroline Gildea and Willinger have also been superb in the 200 meter event as well.

In the field events Naomi Campbell and Blumberg have been especially strong in the shotput while freshman Ally Cooke has excelled in the javelin along with junior Caroline Thuma and freshmen Jae'da Turner and Marcy Solomon. Senior captain Lisa Fesler has performed well in the long jump as has Kouri and Willinger. However, it has been sophomore Lucile Cancre's performances in the high jump and long jump that have been the real surprises of the early season.

With so many underclass girls turning in such fine performances this early in their careers, Coach Glew sees the building blocks being put in place for a highly competitive squad in the years to come. This attitude can best be seen in recent remarks made by Ana Kouri who said, "I try to better my time each day that I race ... even if Martha [Zimmerman] and I have already clinched places in the 400."

LHS Baseball Opens 9-Game Homestand

By Peter Maltzan

After a long preseason marred with unfavoarbly wet weather and indoor practices, the baseball season finally got under way despite a couple of early season postponments.

With a strong core of returning players led by captains Ross Curley, Nick Pisegna and Max McKenna, the team began the year ranked 10th place by a preseason Boston Globe poll. Unfortunately, the club's record is just over .500 as of this writing.

The boys opened the season with an easy victory over Melrose behind the outstanding pitching of junior Curt Everett, who gave up just one hit in his five innings of work.

The following day, the Minutemen faced Everett High in the make-up of a previously scheduled non-league game. Although the boys fell behind early due to some fielding miscues, strong relief pitching by Trevor Keenan, Pater Maltzan, and Dan Vladimer kept the game close until key hits by Jimmy Borden and Tommy Whelan helped the Minutmen score a dramatic come-from-behind win.

The next opponent was a tough Belmont team, currently in first place in the Middlesex League. The game turned into a tight pitching duel with Everett putting on a spectacular performance, giving up just one run on one hit. However, Lexington could manage only one hit of its own as the Belmont pitcher nearly spun a no hitter. The 1-0 loss was to be only the first heartbreak loss of the young season.

The Minutemen bounced back with a 9-3 win over Woburn on the strength of another fine outing by pitcher Curt Everett. On that day the offense was keyed by Tommy Whelan who collected three hits. Unfortunately, the team's offensive output disappeared along with the spring weather in their next game as the boys found themselves on the short end of a tough 2-1 loss. Maltzan and Keenan combined to allowed just two unearned runs but it was enough to sink the Minutemen.

The tough losses continued when the Minutemen made their annual trip for a game in Cooperstown, New York in the shadow of the National Baseball Hall of Fame. In that game, the team jumped out to a 1-0 lead over traditional travelling mates, Reading, but then gave up six quick runs to their rivals.

Even with the statues of perennial Red Sox favorites Ted Williams and Carl Yastremski nearby, Lexington's three-run seventh inning rally fell short as they dropped a 6-4 game to the Rockets.

Seeking some revenge, the Minutemen returned to Massachusetts and put an 11-3 pounding on Watertown. McKenna and Whelan again provided much of the offensive fireworks in that game

The baseball team will now embark upon nine staright home games, where they have always been tough to beat. That is, of course, if the fleating spring weather holds up. Coach Tom O'Grady remains optimistic despite the fact that this year's team is somewhat younger than last year's veteran squad that won the Middlesex title.

Offbeat Athletes: *Kevin Schuster and Annie Sperandio*

By Arjun Gokhale

For Kevin Schuster and Annie Sperandio, boredom is an unacceptable part of life. That's why over the past few years they have found numerous ways to keep themselves and their friends entertained.

It all started with a ball and two creative minds. Four years and countless original creations later, their peculiar gaming inventions have evolved into a senior phenomenon culminating in the development of the ever popular "Tenniball."

By far the most successful idea they have come up with has been "kitchen badminton." While seemingly conventional, this game is anything but. Complete with spectators, this game involves two players battling out a game of badminton in a confined area where anything goes.

Each player can play the birdie off of anything besides the floor. Historically, this had led to intense situations, including a broken leg when Annie dove into the stands to reach a birdie that ricocheted off the fridge. In the end, the numerous scrapes and bruises received playing the game have been far outweighed by the sheer enjoyment.

Of course, all their games aren't so dangerous. In his trunk, Schuster hosts a plethora of equipment, from tennis rackets, to baseballs to street hockey gear. Playing off their kitchen badminton roots, another time they started an impromptu game of street badminton. Before they knew it, kids were coming from everywhere to play and they had a large group gathered.

When the game died down, all the kids went back to Kevin's house where they hung out on the porch. After someone flung a volleyball up on the roof, their next game was born. Calling it "Volleysquash," which is one of Kevin's favorites, has many interesting components.

Everyone must work together to keep the ball up on the roof, hitting it like a volleyball back onto the roof every time it falls off. However, the game is played on Kevin's porch, which is ten feet from the ground.

As he explains, "Yeah, there's been a sprained ankle or two when people ran off the side of my porch, but all things considered, it could have been much worse."Although the games and faces change for Kevin and Annie, the one constant, their creativity, does not. Wherever they are, they remain inspired to eradicate boredom and inactivity.

After all, as Annie says "All you ever need is a ball to have fun". As the weather gets warmer and senioritis sets in, you can be sure to see the two of them with a large group of friends playing anything in the senior parking lot, and, if you see them, you're more than welcome to drop by.